

Richard Shorman

Chess

FREMONT TOURNAMENT RESULTS.

Five masters headed the list of 56 players attending the third annual Fremont Open, held at American High School in Fremont, Oct. 30-31. Hans Poschmann directed the USCF rated event, co-sponsored by the Fremont Chess Club and the Central California Chess Association.

The Open Division of 28 players (average rating, 1941) was run as a four-round Swiss with a time control of 40 moves in two hours, while the 28-player Booster Section (average rating, 1449) employed a five-round Swiss format at 40 moves in 90 minutes. Complete results:

Open Division

1ST-3RD, Robert Hammie (2233), Berkeley, John Watson (2325), Omaha, Neb., and Jay Whitehead (2205), San Francisco, 3½-1½, \$96.66 each; **1ST-2ND BELOW 1941**, Peter Prochaska (1938), San Francisco, and Ulf Wostner (1902), Berkeley, 3-1, \$37.50 each.

Booster Section

1ST, Juergen Kaspirk (1556), Piedmont, 5-0, \$110; **2ND-3RD**, Tony D'Aloiso (1634), San Rafael, and Marc McNown (1649), Walnut Creek, 4-1, \$32.50 each; **1ST BELOW 1449**, William Talcott (1446), San Francisco, 3½-1½, \$50.

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Here are some of the more entertaining games from the Fremont Open, recorded in USCF endorsed coordinate chess notation (files lettered "a" to "h", ranks numbered "1" to "8," always counting from White's lower left corner regardless of whose turn to move; pawn captures designated by file letters only). Tournament circulars consisting of some 25 games from the Open Division may be ordered for 50 cents each set (stamps O.K.) from Burkett's Tournament Bulletins, 1009 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, Calif. 94610.

White: Max Burkett. Black: John Watson. Fremont, Oct. 31, 1976. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 a6 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 g3 Nf6 7 Bg2 8 Ne2 Be7 9 0-0 0-0 10 b3 Nc6 11 Bb2 d 6 12 Nf4 b5 13 Qe2 Bb7 14 Rfcl Rad8 15 Ndl Ne5 16 Nd3 Qb8 17 f4 Ned7 18 a4 Bc6 19 Nb4 Be4 20 Be4 d5 21 Nd5 Bc5 22 Kg2 Ne4 23 Qe4 ed 24 Qf3 Rfe8 25 Nf2 Re3 26 Qd5 Re2 27 Rfl Rc2 28 Bd4 Bd4 29 Qd4 Nc5 30 Qe3 Rd3 31 Qe7 Rd7 32 Qe3 Qb7 33 Kgl Re7 34 Radl h5 35 Rd8 Kh7 36 Qd4 Qf3 37 Rh8 Kh8 38 Qd8 Kh7 39 Qe7 Nb3 40 Qf7 Nd4 41 Resigns.

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White: Harry Radke. Black: Max Burkett. Fremont, Oct. 31, 1976. Ruy Lopez 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bc6 dc 5 0-0 Bg4 6 h3 h5 7 d3 Qf6 8 Nbd2 Ne7 9 Rel Ng6 10 d4 Bd6 11 c4 c5 12 d5 Nf4 13 hg hg 14 Nh2 Rh2 15 Kh2 Qh4 16 Kgl 0-0-0 17 Nf3 gf 18 g3 Qh5 19 Re3 Rh8 20 Resigns.

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White: Peter Prochaska. Black: Richard Bustamante. Fremont, Oct. 31, 1976. Sicilian Defense 1 e 4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 e6 5 Nb5 d6 6 c4 Nf6 7 Nlc3 a6 8 Na3 Be7 9 Be2 0-0 10 0-0 b6 11 Be3 Bb7 12 f4 Re8 13 Nc2 Rc8 14 Bf3 Na5 15 b3 b5 16 e5 Bf3 17 Qf3 Nd7 18 ed Bd6 19 Radl Qc7 20 Ne4 Be7 21 cb ab 22 Nd4 Qb8 23 Ne6 Nf6 24 Nf6 Bf6 25 Nd4 Rc3 26 Rfel h6 27 Nf5 Nc6 28 Rd6 Rce3 29 Re3 Re3 30 Qe3 Qd6 31 Nd6 Bd4 32 Qd4 Nd4 33 a4 ba 34 ba Kf8 35 a5 Ke7 36 a6 Nc6 37 Nb5 Kf6 38 a7 Resigns.

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White: Richard Koepcke. Black: Randy Fong. Fremont, Oct. 31, 1976. Albin Counter Gambit 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5 3 de d4 4 Nf3 c5 5 e3 Nc6 6 Be2 Bf5 7 ed cd 8 a3 Nge7 9 Qd2 Ng6 10 0-0 Nge5 11 Ne5 Ne5 12 Qf4 Qf6 13 Rel 0-0-0 14 Qg3 h6 15 Bf4 Bd6 16 c5 Bc7 17 Bb5 Rd5 18 Qb3 Rc5 19 Nd2 Be6 20 Be5 Re5 21 Qa4 Rel 22 Rel Kb8 23 Nf3 Rd8 24 Rdl Bb6 25 Bd3 Bg4 26 Be4 Qe7 27 Qc2 g6 28 h3 Be6 29 Bd3 Bd5 30 Nel 31 Bb5 Rc8 32 Qd2 Qc5 33 Ba4 Qd6 34 Nd3 Bc7 35 g3 g5 36 Nb4 Bf3 37 Rc1 Qe6 38 Bd1 Bd1 39 Rd1 Bb6 40 Kh2 Qf5 41 Nd3 Re8 42 Rc1 h5 43 Rc2 h4 44 b4 hg 45 fg Re3 46 Nc1 Bc7 47 Resigns.

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White: David Creed. Black: Kenny Fong. Fremont, Oct. 30, 1976. Ruy Lopez 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 b5 6 Bb3 Bc5 7 c3 0-0 8 Rel d6 9 h3 Be6 10 Be6 fe 11 d4 Bb6 12 Bg5 Qe8 13 Bf6 Rf6 14 Qd3 Qg6 15 Nbd2 Raf8 16 d5 Ne7 17 de Re6 18 Nf1 d5 19 Ng3 de 20 Q34 Qg3 21 Re2 Rf4 22 Qa8 Kf7 23 Kf1 Qg6 24 Ne5 Re5 25 Re5 Rf2 26 Ke1 Qd3 27 Rd1 Qf1mate.

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White: Paul Cripe. Black Astvaldur Eydal. Fremont, Oct. 31, 1976. King's Gambit Accepted 1 e4 e5 2 f4 ef 3 Nf3 d6 4 Nc3 Bg4 5 Bc4 Nd7 6 0-0 Ne5 7 Ne5 Bd1 8 Bf7 Ke7 9 Nd5mate.

A CURSE UPON MEN

The passion for playing chess is one of the most unaccountable in the world. It slaps the theory of natural selection in the face. It is the most absorbing of occupations, the least satisfying of desires, an aimless excrescence upon life. It annihilates a man. You have, let us say, a promising politician, a rising artist, that you wish to destroy. Dagger or bomb are archaic, clumsy and unreliable — but teach him, inoculate him with chess.

It is well, perhaps, that the right way of teaching chess is so little known, else we should all be chess players. There would be none left to do the business of the world. Our statesmen would sit with pocket boards while the country went to the devil, our army would bury itself in chequered contemplation, our bread winners would forget their wives in seeking after impossible mates. The whole world would be disorganized.

Only happily, as we say, chess is taught the wrong way round. People put the board before the learner with all the men in battle array, 16 a side, with six different kinds of moves, and the poor wretch is simply crushed and appalled. A lot of things happen, mostly disagreeable, and then a mate comes looming up through the haze of pieces. So he goes away awe stricken, secretly believing that intelligent chess is beyond the wit of man.

But clearly this is an unreasonable method of instruction. Before the beginner can understand the beginning of the game he must surely understand the end; how can he commence playing until he knows what he is playing for?

Your true teacher of chess, your subtle chess poisoner who changes men to chess players begins quite the other way round. He will, let us say, give you King, Queen and Pawn placed out in careless possible positions. So you master the militant possibilities of Queen and Pawn without perplexing complications. Then King, Queen and Bishop perhaps; King, Queen and Knight; and so on.

It ensures that you always play a winning game in these happy days of your chess childhood and taste the one sweet of chess playing, the delight of having the upper hand of a better player. Then to more complicated positions, and at last back to the formal beginning. You begin to see now to what end the array is made, and understand why one Gambit differeth from another in glory and virtue. And the chess mania of your teacher cleaveth to you thenceforth and for evermore.

—Condensed and edited from "Certain Personal Matters, 1898" by H. G. Wells (1866-1946).